

REMARKS

Applicants have amended Claim 33 to correct the antecedent basis of "biodegradable compressed material" and to generally clarify the claim language. In particular, Applicants have changed "biodegradable substance" to "biodegradable compressed material" and have inserted the terms "the particle" to clarify that the "biodegradable compressed material" causes the particle to degrade. Please note that the Notice of Allowability mailed on September 21, 2004 indicated that the Examiner intended to renumber Claims 26 and 28-49 under 37 C.F.R. § 126. The claims were to be renumbered because Claim 25 was not originally presented. For the sake of clarity, and because only the Examiner may renumber claims under 37 C.F.R. § 126,

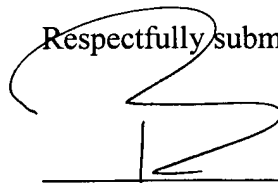
Applicants have not renumbered the claims for the foregoing claim set.

Additionally, Applicants have amended the Specification to correct typographical and grammatical errors.

The amendments are fully supported by the written description. Also, no new matter has been introduced into the application.

If for any reason an insufficient fee has been paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in payment of required fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account **07-1850**. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney at (415) 954-0345.

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